

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the June 16, 2004 Office Action. Claims 1 to 8 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended. The specification has been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

A new title has been provided, as required by the Office Action.

The abstract has been amended so as not to exceed 150 words, as required by the Office Action.

Submitted herewith are two replacement drawing sheets. The replacement drawing sheets include the changes required by the Office Action. In particular, a "Prior Art" legend has been added to each of Figs. 7 and 9.

Claim 5 was objected to for an informality. The objection is respectfully traversed. Claim 5, as currently amended, reads --regenerative--.

Claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,481,434 (Janutka). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention as recited by Claims 1 and 5, the regenerative means is connected between the gate terminal and a high potential side of the direct current power source.

The Office Action concedes that Janutka does not disclose the foregoing feature. Yet, the Office Action asserts that the invention would nevertheless have been obvious. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

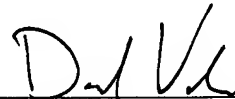
It is Applicant's understanding that if Janutka's circuit is modified so that the regenerative switch means 12 is connected between the gate terminal 10 and the high potential side of the power source, a charge on the gate would flow to the gate terminal 10 through the emitter and base of the transistor 14 when the voltage applied to the gate terminal 10 is 0 V. Thus, Applicant submits that the proposed modification would render Janutka unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of facilitating faster FET turn-off, and as such, that there is no motivation or suggestion to make the proposed modification. See MPEP § 2143.01.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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